

Committee and our chair, Senator BOB MENENDEZ, for hosting—along with the House Foreign Affairs Committee—yesterday a very successful reception in the Russell Office Building where 50 African heads of state and heads of government were received. It was a successful event and an important kickoff to a 3-day U.S.A.-Africa summit currently being led by the President and Secretary of Commerce.

ORDERS THROUGH MONDAY, SEPTEMBER 8, 2014

Mr. COONS. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that when the Senate completes its business today, it adjourn and convene for a pro forma session only, with no business conducted, on Friday, August 8, at 9:15 a.m.; that when the Senate adjourns on Friday, it adjourn under the provisions of H. Con. Res. 112 until Monday, September 8, 2014 at 2 p.m.; that on Monday, September 8, following the prayer and pledge, the morning hour be deemed expired, the Journal of proceedings be approved to date, and the time for the two leaders be reserved for their use later in the day; that following any leader remarks, there be a period of morning business until 5:30 p.m., with Senators permitted to speak therein for up to 10 minutes each, with the time equally divided and controlled between the two leaders or their designees; further, that at 5:30 p.m. the Senate proceed to executive session, resume consideration of Executive Calendar No. 848, and immediately proceed to vote on confirmation of the Pryor nomination, as provided under the previous order.

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. Is there objection?

Without objection, it is so ordered.

PROGRAM

Mr. COONS. Mr. President, on Monday, September 8, 2014, at 5:30 p.m., there will be at least three rollcall votes on confirmation of the Pryor nomination to be U.S. circuit judge for the Eleventh Circuit; confirmation of the Aaron nomination to be a member of the Social Security Advisory Board; and a cloture vote on the motion to proceed to S.J. Res. 19, a joint resolution proposing an amendment to the Constitution of the United States on campaign finance reform. There will be voice votes on the Cohen and Chen nominations for the Social Security Advisory Board.

ORDER FOR ADJOURNMENT

Mr. COONS. If there is no further business to come before the Senate, I ask that it adjourn under the previous order following the remarks of Senator SESSIONS for up to 40 minutes.

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. Without objection, it is so ordered.

The Senator from Alabama.

IMMIGRATION POLICY

Mr. SESSIONS. Thank you, Mr. President. The facts are plain, colleagues. The immigration policies of President Obama are having a devastating effect on the classical American goal of a fair and lawful system of immigration, one that serves our national interest. He has directed the Federal immigration officers not to enforce plain law. He meets privately with pro-amnesty, open borders, and special interest business groups and promises to take even more actions in the future to erase plain law. Unfortunately, our fine law enforcement officers are excluded from the discussion. I have asked that they be involved for years now, and the President has flatly refused.

The President's actions evidence no policy or guiding principle that is sustainable. Now the heretofore largely covert actions by the President are open and blatant, and he has announced them. He has told the world that with the stroke of his pen he will, by Presidential directive, by Executive order, provide legal status to 5 to 6 million people unlawfully in the country today—all this contrary to long established law. But there is more. He has said he will issue, in effect, legal identification cards and work authorization.

Surely we know the President cannot make law. Congress makes law. As Chief Executive, the President executes, carries out, and enforces law. This we learned in grade school. This constitutional construct is not a small matter; it is the mechanism by which this Nation conducts its governmental business. Through this method, the people control their government.

Allowing any President to nullify law is a threat to the future of our Republic and to the ultimate power of the people to control it. That is why I have urged the President to reconsider this point and to adhere to his plain statements, where he has expressly stated he did not have the power to do what he now—in a complete reversal—states he will do.

On November 25, 2013, less than a year ago, he stated: "If, in fact, I could solve all these problems without passing them through Congress, I would do so. But we're also a nation of laws."

On March 28, 2011, President Obama said:

With respect to the notion that I can just suspend deportations through executive order, that's just not the case. There are enough laws on the books by Congress that are very clear in terms of how we have to enforce our immigration system that for me to simply through executive order ignore those congressional mandates would not conform with my appropriate role as President.

Again, on September 28, 2011, he said:

I just have to continue to say this notion that somehow I can just change the laws unilaterally is just not true. We are doing ev-

everything we can administratively. But the fact of the matter is there are laws on the books that I have to enforce. And I think there's been a great disservice done to the cause of getting the DREAM Act passed and getting comprehensive immigration passed by perpetrating the notion that somehow, by myself, I can go and do these things. It's just not true. But we live in a democracy. You have to pass bills through the legislature, and then I can sign it.

That is true. Every schoolchild knows that. But what is happening today? The President is saying something quite different.

It is important for Congress to stand and resist the complete erosion of its powers—and even more significantly, the powers of the American people—and see that our laws are carried out effectively.

I know this is a somewhat postmodern time where many believe words have no meaning except as they advance one's agenda of the day, but such approaches are wholly inconsistent with the founding concepts of America. We were founded on the belief that words do have meaning, that sound principles must be adhered to, and that truth is real and must be sought.

While we debate many issues, and good people can disagree, surely we can all agree that at this moment we are in the Senate Chamber and that there is daylight outside. Those are not matters for debate or else we are, indeed, through the "looking glass." Likewise, it is surely not a matter of debate—among Democrat or Republican—that the President cannot make or nullify law. He cannot do that. Thus, we must in unity call on President Obama not to go through with his stated desire which would eviscerate long and clearly established American immigration law. What law might the next President ignore, bend, or nullify?

It is said that he has ordered his lawyers and officials to tell him how he may carry out such actions before the end of the summer. Apparently he did not ask them whether he had such power; he just ordered them to develop a plan to do that which the law does not allow.

Mr. President, frustration and pique can result in hasty and unwise decisions. Please do not do this.

To the officials and lawyers who have received this directive from the President, you must always remember that your first duty is to the Constitution and the Nation and its laws. There will be times when you have the duty to say no.

Lawyers at the Departments of Justice and Homeland Security are going to be asked how they can carry out the President's plan that he previously said he had no authority to do. They are also challenged. Their duty is to say no. And sometimes you have to resign your office.

Just imagine, this past Sunday—2 days ago—White House adviser Dan Pfeiffer repeated the Obama administration's warning of an impending Executive action on immigration. Mr.